



Wind-downed bus insulators hit the ground hard.

UGP wind storm damages substation

Bad weather once again took a toll in the Upper Great Plains Region, but this time it wasn't ice and snow—it was wind. Early last month, high wind gusts brought down approximately 2,000 feet of 5- and 6-inch aluminum bus work and destroyed many station post support insulators in the South Dakota Maintenance Office's Sioux City Substation near Hinton, Iowa.

Cleanup of the damaged equipment was laborious and required careful consideration of safety hazards such as obtaining correct clearances and protecting employees from cutting themselves on broken insulator porcelain.

"Immediately locating replacement parts was no easy task," said **Wade Berg** in UGP's Maintenance Engineering office. Berg spent many hours telephoning vendors and equipment suppliers. Just as difficult was figuring out how to repair and reuse many of the damaged pieces, reported **Dan Olson**, South Dakota Maintenance manager.

"It made a big mess, but we've been putting it back together," he stated. "It will take several weeks to make all the necessary repairs."

Western employees working to repair the equipment are: **Bob Coyle**, **Jim Curtis**, and **Bob DiRose**, all electricians, from Watertown; **Jammy Eitheim**, a lineman, **Hal Harvey**, an electrician, **Scott Jaacks**, a lineman, **Gary Loers**, a foreman II electrician and **Jim Luna**, a foreman II lineman, all from Sioux City Maintenance Field Office. Also **Scott Mallard**, UGP substation maintenance director; **Jim Milbrandt**, electrical engineer, South Dakota Maintenance Office; **Greg Nicholas**, an electrician, **Kevin Plantenberg**, an electrician, **LeRoy Schiff**, a lineman, **Tim Ruge**, a lineman and **Steve Zerfas**, an electrician, all from Sioux City Maintenance Field Office. Also, **Gerald Zaug**, a foreman II electrician, from Watertown.